Synthesis of Diterpenoid Steenkrotin A

**Significance:** Ding and co-workers report the first total synthesis of (±)-steenkrotin A, a diterpenoid isolated from an African shrub. Structurally, this natural product is characterized by a pentacyclic skeleton, embedded with a sterically congested tetrahydrofuran moiety. The authors focused first on the construction of tricycle I, which set the stage for further elegant transformations to access the target.

**Comment:** The tetrahydrofuran subunit was installed by a Rh-catalyzed O–H bond insertion and a carbonyl-ene reaction. A SmI$_2$-mediated Ueno–Stork reaction and a ketyl-olefin cyclization were used to construct spirocycle L. Interestingly, (±)-steenkrotin A could be accomplished by a cascade aldol condensation–vinylogous retro-aldol–aldol reaction, followed by elimination.

**Key words**
- steenkrotin A
- terpenoids
- O–H bond insertion
- carbonyl-ene reaction
- Ueno–Stork reaction
- ketyl-olefin cyclization
- aldol condensation